

vote No. 506, final passage of the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNTING KIWANIS CLUB DAY CARE CENTER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a historic anniversary as the Kiwanis Day Care Center in Huntington celebrates its 75th anniversary. This is without a doubt a one of a kind day care center with a unique history. The center is the oldest day care facility in West Virginia and is also the oldest continuous Kiwanis service project in the world. The Huntington chapter of the Kiwanis embodies their international motto "We Build" with the chapter's dedication to building brotherhood, camaraderie and community as displayed through building and maintaining a 75-year-old service project. The center is operated and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Huntington, and President Bob Mauk has been doing a fantastic job for the organization. The center started from a donated residence in 1930 and has since grown to a modern building with seven classrooms, a kitchen, offices and a large, well equipped playground.

Recently a formal ceremony was held where several Kiwanian and government officials were on hand to offer congratulatory remarks and give praise to the center's 23 workers and volunteers. The 72 children served daily by the Kiwanis Day Care Center were on hand to sing Happy Birthday to the center during the ceremony. I take great pride in knowing that a wonderful organization such as the Kiwanis has been working so hard for nearly a century in Huntington to maintain a safe, fun and educational environment for the youth of the Mountain State.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise and join my colleague, Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS, the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Braintrust, in recognizing the third annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, which will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2005.

In my State of New Jersey, over 32,000 people are living with HIV or AIDS, and almost 7,000 of them are Latinos. Unfortunately, Latinos are suffering disproportionately from this disease. Latinos in New Jersey, like Latinos in the rest of the Nation, make up about 13 percent of the population, but 20 percent of the AIDS cases. Many are uninsured and unable to access adequate care due to lack of transportation, language and cultural barriers, or the fear of being stigmatized, among other reasons. Even more disturbing is the fact that 4 out of every 5 females living with HIV/AIDS are minorities.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is about educating our communities and increasing awareness. Too many Latinos in my State are not getting diagnosed until it is too late. With increased awareness and action, we can save lives.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a chance to salute the AIDS survivors, and make sure they have the services they need. I urge my colleagues to reauthorize a stronger and fully funded Ryan White CARE Act, which provides critical support for those affected by HIV/AIDS, and is often what keeps those with HIV/AIDS from falling through the cracks. Through the help of the CARE Act, the incidence of mothers transmitting HIV to their babies has decreased ten-fold. Almost half of all CARE Act beneficiaries are minorities. Without a stronger commitment and increased funding, Latinos will be left behind and lives will be lost.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day also gives us a chance to thank those dedicated to ending HIV/AIDS: the victims, the volunteers, the professionals, and the advocates. It is their tireless efforts and dedication that force our country to be honest with itself. The progress we have made so far would not have been possible without them, or the commitment of national and community organizations, that provide culturally sensitive information and services that are essential to helping Latinos who suffer from the disease.

But the battle against AIDS has not yet been won. Approximately 40,000 new cases of HIV are reported each year. Alarming, Congress has slashed critical funding for programs that provide a comprehensive response to the spread of the disease, and for years, our communities have been asked to do more with less. This must stop.

A renewed investment in the fight against HIV and AIDS is critical to the future of this country. Hispanic men, women, children, and families deserve better. On this National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, let us renew our commitment to the Latino community and to ending HIV/AIDS. Let us reauthorize and fully fund the CARE Act, and let us give our communities the resources they need to fight this disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 29, 2005, I was unable to vote on passage of H.J. Res. 68, making continuing appropriations for Fiscal year 2006 (rollcall No. 507); and the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 178, recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, treatment and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (rollcall No. 508). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

FREEDOM FOR RAÚL ARENCIBIA FAJARDO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Raúl Arencibia Fajardo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Arencibia Fajardo is a member of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, the Human Rights Friends Club, and a delegate of the 24th of February Movement. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who has worked for basic human rights for the people of Cuba. As an opponent of the tyrannical regime in Havana, he has faced constant harassment and repression.

According to Amnesty International, he was arrested on December 6, 2002, along with fellow opposition activists Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and Mr. Virgilio Marante Guelmes. He was summarily incarcerated in the grotesque totalitarian gulag for 3 months without trial. During his unjust imprisonment, and after being released, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo never wavered in his commitment to bring freedom, democracy and human rights to the Cuban people.

Unfortunately, according to Amnesty International, on May 18, 2004, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo was, in a sham trial, sentenced to 3 years in the totalitarian gulag for the "crimes" of "disrespect" and "resistance."

According to CubaNetcom, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo has a chronic cough, high fever, throat infection, and has been confined in a cell without food and water. He is suffering in abhorrent conditions because he refuses to accept the reality inflicted on the Cuban people by the tyrant. Let us be very clear, the repression and tyranny practiced by the regime in Havana are incompatible with the democratic values of the western hemisphere.

Mr. Arencibia Fajardo is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My Colleagues, it is absolutely unacceptable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are languishing in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Raúl Arencibia Fajardo and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE NEW SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the new San Mateo High School and the dedication of the Thomas C. Mohr Clock Tower, in my Congressional